

Senate Resolution 15

By: Senators Shafer of the 48th, Hill of the 32nd, Adelman of the 42nd, Williams of the 19th, Unterman of the 45th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing solidarity with Israel in its defense against terrorism in the Gaza Strip; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Israel is the greatest ally of the United States in the Middle East;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, the Hamas terror organization's charter calls for the destruction of the State of
6 Israel; and

7 WHEREAS, Palestinian terrorists of the Islamic Jihad and Hamas in the Gaza Strip,
8 sponsored and trained by Iran, have recently fired hundreds of rockets at civilian targets in
9 southern Israel, ending a six-month cease-fire with Israel in declaration and in deed; and

10 WHEREAS, during the six-month "state of calm," Israel allowed the entrance of some
11 17,000 truckloads of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip, while Palestinian terrorists
12 launched 538 rockets and mortars into Israel; and

13 WHEREAS, the latest terrorist attacks took place only days after the United Nations Security
14 Council adopted resolution 1850, which unanimously declared support for the peace process
15 between the Palestinians and Israelis; and

16 WHEREAS, since these latest terrorist attacks and the beginning of its military operation on
17 December 27, 2008, Israel has allowed the entrance of hundreds of truckloads of
18 humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip in full coordination with donor Arab countries and
19 international aid organizations, including the Red Cross, out of respect for human rights and
20 lives and in an effort to minimize the hardship and suffering of the Palestinian population;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Israel's military operations are an effort to defend its citizens as a moral duty
23 against the unspeakable horrors of ongoing, indiscriminate terrorism and are aimed only at
24 dismantling the terrorist infrastructure; and

25 WHEREAS, hundreds of innocent Israeli and Palestinian civilians have been tragically killed
26 due to ongoing escalations of violence initiated by Palestinian terrorist organizations.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body:

- 28 (1) Stand in solidarity with Israel as it takes necessary steps to provide security to its
29 people;
- 30 (2) Remain committed to Israel's right to self-defense and support additional United States
31 assistance to help Israel defend itself;
- 32 (3) Condemn the end of the cease-fire by Hamas;
- 33 (4) Condemn the firing of rockets into civilian areas by the Iran-sponsored terrorist groups
34 of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad;
- 35 (5) Urge all Arab states to declare their opposition to terrorism and attacks on civilians;
- 36 (6) Urge all parties in the region to pursue lasting peace in the Middle East; and
- 37 (7) Will work as an elected body to promote economic relations, bilateral trade, and
38 partnerships in green technologies and alternative energy with the State of Israel to
39 stimulate the economies of both the United States and Israel in this time of crisis.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
41 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the
42 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States
43 Senate, each member of the Georgia congressional delegation, and the General Consul of
44 Israel.